

George Washington Papers, Series 2, Letterbooks 1754-1799

***To THE SECRETARY OF STATE**

Mount Vernon, April 1, 1791.

Dear Sir: I have had the pleasure to receive your letter of the 27th. ult. with the papers which accompanied it. Referring to your judgment whether a commission, similar to that intended for Mr. Barclay,²⁷ may be given without the agency of the Senate, I return both papers to you signed, in order that the one you deem most proper may be used.

Your opinions respecting the acts of force which have already taken place, or may yet take place on our boundaries, meets my concurrence, as the safest mode of compelling propositions to an amicable settlement; and it may answer a good purpose to have them suggested in the way you mention.²⁸ Should this matter assume a serious aspect during my absence I beg you to communicate particulars with all possible despatch.

The most superb edifices may be erected, and I shall wish their inhabitants much happiness, and that too very disinterestedly, as I shall never be of the number myself.

It will be fortunate for the American public if private Speculations in the lands, still claimed by the Aborigines, do not aggravate those differences, which policy, humanity, and justice concur to deprecate.²⁹

I am much indebted to your kind concern for my safety in travelling; no accident has yet happened either from

27. Thomas Barclay. His commission conferred on him the rank of consul. He carried with him a letter to the Emperor of Morocco which Sparks prints under date of March 31. It was

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merely the usual form of a letter of credence prepared by the Department of State, and as it is not, strictly speaking, any more of a Washington document than dozens of other formal papers prepared for the President's signature, it is omitted here.

28. Jefferson's opinion was that any acts of force by the British authorities to remove American settlers from their homes on the northeastern and northwestern frontiers, a direct consequence, in the northwestern area, of the British refusal to evacuate the western posts, should be met by force, and that the settlers should ask the aid of the neighboring militia.

29. Jefferson had written (March 27): "You Know of Mr. R. Morris's purchase of Gorham and Phelps of 1,300,000 acres of land of the state of Massachusetts, at 5d an acre. it is said that he has sold 1,200,000 acres of these in Europe thro' the agency of W. Franklin, who it seems went on this business conjointly with that of printing his grand father's works. Mr. Morris, under the name of Ogden, and perhaps in partnership with him has brought the residue of the lands held in the same country by Massachusetts, for 100,000£. the Indian title of the former purchase has been extinguished by Gorham, but that of the latter is not. perhaps it cannot be. in that case a similarity of interest will produce an alliance with the Yazoo companies. perhaps a sale might be made in Europe to purchasers ignorant of the Indian right." A press copy of the original is in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress."

the high hanging of the carriage, or the mode of driving. The latter I must continue as my Postilion (Giles) is still too much indisposed to ride the journey. It occurs to me that you may not have adverted to Judge Putnam's³⁰ being in the Western Country at present. Perhaps General Knox can furnish you with the maps you want, or they may be found among those that are in my study in Philadelphia.

I expect to leave Mount Vernon, in prosecution of my Southern tour, on tuesday or wednesday next; I shall halt one day at Fredericksburgh and two at Richmond; thence I

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shall proceed to Charlestown by the way of Petersburg, Halifax, Tarborough, Newbern, Wilmington, and George Town, without making any halts between Richmond and Charleston but such as may be necessary to accommodate my journey. I am sincerely and affectionately etc.³¹

30. Rufus Putnam.

31. From the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

***To THE SECRETARY OF STATE**

Friday, November 25, 1791.

As the meeting, proposed to be held (at nine o'clock tomorrow morning) with the heads of the Great Departments, is to consider important Subjects belonging (more immediately) to the Department of State, The President desires Mr. Jefferson would commit the several points⁸⁷ on which opinions will be asked to Paper, and in the order they ought to be taken up.⁸⁸

***To THE SECRETARY OF STATE¹³**

Sunday, December 18, 1791.

The P— requests that Mr J— would give the letter and statement herewith sent from the S—y of War a perusal, and return it to him in the course of the day, with his opinion as to the propriety of the manner of making the communication to Congress; and whether it ought not, at any rate, to be introduced in some such way as this (if it is to pass through him to Congress) “Pursuant to directions I submit” &ca. Or, (if it is to go immediately from the War department to that body) “I lay before Congress by direction of the P— of the U. S. the following statement.” &ca.¹⁴

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87. A press copy of Jefferson's points to be considered is dated November 26 and is in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

88. From the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

13. In the "Letter Book" this is addressed to "Mr. Jefferson and Mr. Hamilton."

14. From the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress. (See Washington's message to the Senate and House of Representatives Jan. 11, 1792, *post.*)

***TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE**

March 25, 1792.

The President of the United States has attentively considered the "Project of a Convention with the Spanish Provinces³¹" which was submitted to him by the Secretary of State, and informs him that the same meets his approbation. The President, however, thinks it proper to observe, that in perusing the before-mentioned Project some doubts arose in his mind

31. A press copy of the "Project" is in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress under date of Mar. 22, 1792.

as to the expediency of two points mentioned therein. The one relative to instituting a civil, instead of a criminal process against Forgers; who, generally, if not always, are possessed of little property. The other, respecting the *unlimited* time in which a person may be liable to an Action.

By expressing these quæries the President would not be understood as objecting to the points touched upon; he only wishes to draw the Secretary's further attention to them, and if he should, upon reconsideration, think it right for them to stand upon their present footing the President acquiesces therein.³²

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32. From the original in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

***To THE SECRETARY OF STATE**

April 1, 1792.

The President of the U. States has read, and approves the draught of the Secretary of States letter³⁸ to the Govt. of So. Carolina of this date.³⁹

38. A press copy of Jefferson's letter to Gov. Charles Pinckney, Apr. 1, 1792, is in the *Jefferson Papers*. It relates to the matter of fugitive criminals in Spanish territory and inclosed a copy of the project of a convention covering the subject to be negotiated with Spain.

39. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Mount Vernon, May 21, 1792.

Dear Sir: I have had the pleasure to receive your letter of the 16th. inst. I sincerely hope that the intelligence which has been communicated to you of a War between France and Spain being inevitable, is not founded in truth.

It is my intention to commence my Journey to Philadelphia on Thursday next. I shall stop in George Town one day, and proceed on from thence without further delay, unless my horses should require rest, some of which got foundered and lame on the journey to this place. With very sincere regard, I am etc.⁴

4. In the writing of Tobias Lear in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

***To THE SECRETARY OF STATE**

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Mount Vernon, July 23, 1792.

Dear Sir: The friday after you left this place I received the enclosed dispatches from Governor Chittendon, of the State of Vermont.

If you conceive it to be necessary, undr. the circumstances which exist, to write again to that Gentleman before he replies to your former letter on the subject in dispute, you will, of course, take such measures thereupon as shall appear proper under a full view of all circumstances. With great esteem and regard I am etc.⁷⁹

79. From the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Mount Vernon, August 13, 1792.

Dear Sir: Since my last to you dated the 23d. of July, I have received the second Epistle of Govt. Chittendon enclosing a copy of the Lieut. Gov. of Canada's letter to him; but as he does not in that letter acknowledge the receipt of the one which went to him from the Secretary of States office, the motives which suspended an answer to his first letter, still exist, unless he has given the information required of him immediately to yourself. However, that you may have the whole matter before you to answer when you are possessed of all the facts which relate to the subject, I forward the Governor's last letter

to me, as I also do that from Colo. Humphreys to you, covered by your's of the 30th ulto. I am etc.¹⁰

10. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

***To THE SECRETARY OF STATE**

(Private)

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Mount Vernon, August 23, 1792.

My dear Sir: Your letters of the 12th. and 13th came duly to hand, as did that enclosing Mr. Blodgets plan of a Capitol. The latter I forwarded to the Commissioners, and the enclosures of the two first are now returned to you.

I believe we are never to hear *from* Mr. Carmichael; nor *of him* but through the medium of a third person. His — I really

do not know with what epithet to fill the blank, is, to me, amongst the most unaccountable of all the unaccountable things! I wish much to hear of the arrival of Mr. Short at Madrid, and the result of their joint negotiations at that Court, as we have fresh, and much stronger Representations from Mr. Seagrove of the extraordinary interference of the Spaniards in West Florida, to prevent running the boundary line which had been established by treaty between the United States and the Creeks, of their promising them support in case of their refusal; and of their endeavouring to disaffect the four Southern tribes of Indians towards this Country. In the execution of these projects Seagrove is convinced McGillivray and his partner Panton are embarked, and have become principal agents; and there are suspicions entertained, he adds, that the Capture of Bowles was a preconcerted measure between the said Bowles and the Spaniards. That the former is gone to Spain (and to Madrid I think) is certain. That McGillivray has removed from little Tallassee to a place he has within, or bordering on the Spanish line. That a Captn. Oliver, a Frenchman, but an Officer in a Spanish Regiment at New Orleans, has taken his place at Tallassee and is holding talks with the Chiefs of the several Towns in the Nation. And that every exertion is making by the Governor of West Florida to obtain a full and general meeting of the Southern Tribes at Pensicola, are facts that admit of

no doubt . It is also affirmed that five Regiments of about 600 men each, and a large quantity of Ordnance and Stores arrived lately at New Orleans, and that the like number of Regiments (but this can only be from report) was expected at the same place from the

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Havanna. Recent accts. from Arthur Campbell (I hope without *much* foundation) speak of very hostile dispositions in the lower Cherokees, and of great apprehension for the safety of Govr. Blount and Genl. Pickens²³ who had set out for the proposed meeting with the Chicasaws and Choctaws at Nashville, and for the Goods which were going down the Tennessee by Water, for that Meeting.

Our accounts from the Western Indns. are not more favourable than those just mentioned. No doubt remains of their having put to death Majr. Trueman and Colo. Hardin; and the Harbingers of their mission. The report from their grand Council is, that War was, or soon would be, decided on; and that they will admit no Flags. The meeting was numerous and not yet dissolved that we have been informed of. What influence our Indn. Agents may have at it, remains to be known. Hendricks left Buffaloe Creek between the 18th. and 20th. of June, accompanied by two or three of the Six Nations; some of the Chiefs of those Nations were to follow in a few days, only waiting, it was said, for the Caughnawaga Indians from Canada. And Captn. Brandt would not be long after them. If these attempts to disclose the just and pacific disposition of the United States to these people, should also fail, there

23. Gen. Andrew Pickens.

remains no alternative but the Sword, to decide the difference; and recruiting goes on heavily. If Spain is really intrieging with the Southern Indians as represented by Mr. Seagrove, I shall entertain strong suspicions that there is a very clear understanding in all this business between the Courts of London and Madrid; and that it is calculated to check, as far as they can, the rapid encrease, extension and consequence of this Country; for there cannot be a doubt of the wishes of the former (if we may judge from the conduct of its Officers) to impede any eclaircissment of ours with the Western Indians, and to embarrass our negotiations with them, any more than there is of their Traders and some others who are subject to their Government, aiding and abetting them in acts of hostilities.

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How unfortunate, and how much is it to be regretted then, that whilst we are encompassed on all sides with avowed enemies and insidious friends, that internal dissensions should be harrowing and tearing our vitals. The last, to me, is the most serious, the most alarming, and the most afflicting of the two. And without more charity for the opinions and acts of one another in Governmental matters, or some more infalible criterion by which the truth of speculative opinions, before they have undergone the test of experience, are to be forejudged than has yet fallen to the lot of fallibility,

I believe it will be difficult, if not impracticable, to manage the Reins of Government or to keep the parts of it together: for if, instead of laying our shoulders to the machine after measures are decided on, one pulls this way and another that, before the utility of the thing is fairly tried, it must, inevitably, be torn asunder. And, in my opinion the fairest prospect of happiness and prosperity that ever was presented to man, will be lost, perhaps for ever!

My earnest wish, and my fondest hope therefore is, that instead of wounding suspicions, and irritable charges, there may be liberal allowances, mutual forbearances, and temporising yieldings on *all sides* . Under the exercise of these, matters will go on smoothly, and, if possible, more prosperously. Without them every thing must rub; the Wheels of Government will clog; our enemies will triumph, and by throwing their weight into the disaffected Scale, may accomplish the ruin of the goodly fabric we have been erecting.²⁴

I do not mean to apply these observations, or this advice to any particular person, or character. I have given them in the same general terms to other Officers of the Government; because the disagreements which have arisen from difference of opinions, and the Attacks wch. have been made upon almost all the measures of government, and most of its Executive Officers, have, for a long time past, filled me with painful sensations; and cannot fail I think, of producing unhappy consequences at home and abroad.

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24. Noted in Jefferson's *Anas* for Oct. 1, 1792; printed in Jefferson's *Works* (P. L. Ford, editor, Federal edition: 1904), vol. 1, pp. 233, *et seq.*

The nature of Mr. Seagroves

communications was such, and the evidence in support of them so strongly corroborative, that I gave it as my sentiment to Genl. Knox that the Commissioners of Spain ought to have the matter brought before them again in the manner it was before, but in stronger (though not in committing) language; as the Government was embarrassed, and its Citizens in the Southern States made uneasy by such proceedings, however unauthorized they might be by their Court.

I pray you to note down, or rather to frame into paragraphs or sections such matters as may occur to you as fit and proper for general communication at the opening of the next Session of Congress, not only in the department of State, but on any other subject applicable to the occasion, that I may, in due time, have every thing before me. With sincere esteem and friendship I am &c.²⁵

25. From the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

***To THE SECRETARY OF STATE**

Mount Vernon, September 3, 1792.

Dear Sir: The letters from the British Minister,³⁸ the Consul General of Prussia, and Mr. Knox,³⁹ which you sent to me for perusal, are returned under this cover; and the answers to the two last were forwarded to Mr. Taylor,⁴⁰ although I did not perfectly comprehend an expression in the one to Mr. Palaske.⁴¹ With great esteem etc.⁴²

38. George Hammond.

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39. William Knox, United States Consul at Dublin, Ireland.

40. George Taylor, jr., chief clerk, Department of State.

41. Charles Godfrey Paleske (Palaske), Consul General of Prussia to the United States.

42. From the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

Press copies of Jefferson's letters to Paleske and Knox, Aug. 19, 1792, are in the *Jefferson Papers*.

To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Mount Vernon, September 15, 1792.

Dear Sir: This letter goes Express,⁵³ to obtain the signature of the Secretary of State to the enclosed Proclamation.⁵⁴ The reasons for sending it in this manner, are, to avoid the circuitous rout by Richmond, and the delay it might meet with by the Post; not having reached my hands until this morning, too late for the Mail of this day, nor in time for any other before Tuesday next; and because it is unknown to me, when one will set out from Richmond for Charlottesville.

If good is to result from the Proclamation, no time is to be lost in issueing of it; as the opposition, to what is called the Excise Law, in the Western Survey of the District of Pennsylvania, is become too open, violent and serious to be longer winked at by Government, without prostrating it's authority, and involving the Executive in censurable inattention to the outrages which are threatened.

I have no doubt but that the measure I am about to take, will be severely criticised; but I shall disregard any animadversions upon my conduct when I am called upon by the nature

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of my office, to discharge what I conceive to be a duty, and none, in my opinion, is more important, than to carry the Laws of the United States into effect.

53. Atwood Violet, of New York, has in his possession the autograph signed instructions to William Gray, who rode express to Charlottesville and delivered this letter to Jefferson on September 18. They read: "Cross at Colchester. Enquire the way to Normand's ford of Rappahanock River. Thence to Charlottsville; but before you get to that place as your business is to deliver to and bring an answer from the Secretary of State; Mr. Jefferson, you will enquire for his Seat of Monticello. Delay no time you can avoid, in bringing back his answer, and in order to obtain it, you must, if he is not at home, go to him. Get a certificate from Mr. Jefferson of the distance you ride by which you will be paid; be here, if possible by, or before Friday Noon, ensuing the date of this."

54. See Proclamation, Sept. 15, 1792, *post*.

The Secretary of the Treasury; the Secretary of War and the Attorney General, concur in the expediency of the Proclamation; as forbearance seems to have produced no other effect than to spread the evil.

I have *scored* a few words, which possibly may as well be omitted; and if, upon an attentive perusal of the draught, others should appear (which you think might as well be expunged or altered; mark them in *like* manner with a pencil, and I will give due consideration thereto.

Your Note of the 27th. ulto. with the enclosures to Mr. Tayler,⁵⁵ were forwarded in the manner you desired, by the first Post after they came to my hands.

With sincere and affectionate regard etc.⁵⁶

55. George Taylor (Tayler), jr.

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56. In the writing of Bartholomew Dandridge in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

***To THE SECRETARY OF STATE**

October 20, 1792.

Dear Sir: The letters of Gouver. Morris give a gloomy picture of the Affairs of France. I fear with too much truth.

If the order of Senate dated the 7th. of last May is compleated, it must be with *all* Offices except the Judges.

The Post Office (as a branch of Revenue) was annexed to the Treasury in the time of Mr. Osgood; and when Colo. Pickering was appointed thereto, he was informed, as I find by my letter to him dated the 29th. of August 1791,⁹⁸ that he was to consider it in that light. If from relationship, or usage in similar cases (for I have made no enquiry into the matter, having been closely employed since you mentioned the thing to me, in reading papers from the War Office) the Mint does not appertain to the Department of the Treasury I am more inclined to add it to that of State than to multiply the duties of the other. I am etc.

PS. The Letters of Mr. Seagrove to Genl Knox are a continu., of the evidence of Spanish interference with the Southern Indians.⁹⁹

98. This letter was signed by the secretary to the President, Tobias Lear.

99. From the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

***To THE SECRETARY OF STATE**

(Private)

Library of Congress

December 31, 1792.

Dear Sir: I do not recollect perfectly what your sentiments were respecting the application of Mr. De la Forest;⁶⁹ and being to give an answer to the Secretary of the Treasury on this occasion I should be glad to receive them previously thereto.⁷⁰ The difficulty of the case you well know arises from the unauthorised request, and the hazard of advancing monies without it. I am etc.⁶⁸

69. Monsieur de la Forest had written (December 27) "that the French Consuls here have a right to receive their salaries at Paris; that under present circumstances they cannot dispose of their bills, and desiring that our Government will take them as a remittance in part of the monies we have to pay to France. The trouble was caused by the depreciation of the assignats in which the consuls were paid. Jefferson thought the risk, if any, is certainly very small, and such as it would be expedient in us to encounter in order to oblige these Gentlemen. I think it of real value to produce favorable dispositions in the agents of foreign nations here. Cordiality among nations depends very much on the representations of their agents mutually; and cordiality once established, is of immense value, even counted in money, from the favors it produces in commerce, and the good understanding it preserves in matters merely political."

70. Jefferson's report (December 31) is entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

68. From the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

***To THE SECRETARY OF STATE**

Philadelphia, February 13, 1793.

Sir: Arrangements may be made with the Secretary of the Treasury for the immediate payment of One hundred thousand dollars on account of the debt due from the United

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States to France. The statement of the Account between these Countries will, it is expected, be compleated tomorrow; and the bale. up to the last of December be ascertained; when the propriety of further, and to what extent advances shall be made will be the subject of further consideration.

The Secretary of the Treasury knows of no settlement between Mr. Jay and Mr. Otto in the year 1789; and conceives if such did take place the document respecting it must be in the Secretary of States Office.²⁰

20. From the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

***To THE SECRETARY OF STATE**

Philadelphia, February 26, 1793.

Sir: The Minister of France may, as soon as he pleases, make arrangements with the Secretary of the Treasury for the payment of Three million of Livres on account of the debt due from the U: States to France (including the one hundred thousand dollars already ordered, in part) agreeably to the requisition of M. Le Brun Minister for Foreign Affairs in that Country, and In such manner as will comport with the State of the Treasury.³⁹

39. From the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

On March 2 the Cabinet decided that "The opinion unanimously is, that the Secretary of the Treasury shall inform Mr. Smith that the Government of the United States have made [or] engaged payments to France to the extent which is at present consistent with their arrangements; and do not judge it advisable to take any measures on the subject of his Application." This opinion, in the writing of Tobias Lear, and signed by Jefferson, Hamilton, Knox, and Randolph, is in the *Washington Papers*.

To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

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United States, March 8, 1793.

Sir: Being desirous of having a full and accurate knowledge of such things as are required to be done by or through the President of the United States, by the laws passed during the late Session of Congress, and which are deposited among the Rolls in your Office; I have to request, that the said laws may be examined for this purpose, and that you will furnish me with extracts of such parts or clauses of them as relate to, or require the immediate or special agency of the President of the United States.⁶⁰

60. In the writing of Tobias Lear in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

United States, March 9, 1793.

Sir: Expecting that my private Affairs will call me to Virginia on or before the 25th of this month, I have to request that you will lay before me, previous to that time, such matters within your department as may require my attention or agency before I set out; as well as those which might be necessary for me to know or act upon during the time of my absence from the Seat of Government (which will be about four weeks) so far as such things may come to your knowledge

before my departure.⁶²

To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Sunday, March 10, 1793.

Sir: If, upon a due consideration of the letter from the Secretary of the N. W. Territory⁶³ to Govr. St. Clair, which you sent to me yesterday, and is herewith returned, you shall be of opinion that my official interference is necessary on the subject of that letter, I must

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request that you will report to me wherein such interference may be necessary, as well as the authority under which the President may exercise it.

But I confess to you, that the long absence of the Governor, as well as of some of the Judges, from the Territory, appears to me, if not the cause of producing the irregularities complained of by the Secretary, to be a great means of encouraging a spirit of riot and disorder, by relaxing the energy of the laws. This, therefore, is an additional reason for me to wish that the Governor may be pressed to repair to the Territory without delay. And unless he does, I shall be under the disagreeable necessity of issuing a peremptory Order for that purpose. I wish to be informed whether Judge Turner has set out

62. In the writing of Tobias Lear in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

63. Winthrop Sargent.

for the Territory.

I think it would be best for you to consult with the Atty. Genl. to determine whether transcripts of the treaties made with the Indians under the State Governmt. of N. York should be sent for or not.⁶²

62. In the writing of Tobias Lear in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

***To THE SECRETARY OF STATE**

Philadelphia, March 13, 1793.

Dear Sir: The returned draught of a letter to Mr. Gouv. Morris accords with my sentiments. Taking it for granted, that the words "We suppose this will rather overpay the instalments and interest due on the loans of 18.6 and 10 Millions," mean all that could be demanded by the French Government to the dose of last year. This being the idea I have entertained of the payments, and engagements to pay.

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If it has not been done in a former letter, it would be agreeable to me, that Mr. Morris should be instructed to neglect no favorable opportunity of expressing *informally* the sentiments and wishes of this Country respecting the M. de la Fayette. And I pray

you to commit to paper, in answer to the enclosed letter from Madame de la Fayette to me, all the consolation I can with propriety give her consistent with my public character and the National policy; circumstanced as things are. My last, and *only* letter to her is herewith sent, that you may see what has been written heretofore. I am etc.⁶⁸

68. From the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

United States, March 20, 1793.

Sir: I have to request that it may be given in charge to the director of the

mint, to take measures for collecting samples of foreign coins issued in the Year 1792, of the species which usually circulate within the United States, to examine by assays at the mint whether the same are conformable to the respective standards required, and to report the result, that the same may be made known by proclamation, agreeably to the Act entitled, "An Act regulating foreign Coins, and for other purposes."⁸³

83. In the writing of Tobias Lear in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

To THE SECRETARIES OF STATE, TREASURY, WAR, AND THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

(Circular)

United States, March 21, 1793.

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Gentlemen: The Treaty which is agreed to be held on or about the first of June next at the Lower Sandusky of Lake Erie, being of great moment to the interests and peace of this Country; and likely to be attended with difficulties arising from circumstances (not unknown to you) of a peculiar and embarrassing nature; it is indispensably necessary that *our* rights under the Treaties which have been entered into with the Six Nations, the several tribes of Indians now in hostility with us, and the claims of others, should be carefully investigated and well ascertained, that the Commissioners who are appointed to hold it may be well informed and clearly instructed on all the points that are likely to be discussed: thereby knowing what they are to insist upon (with or without compensation, and the amount of the Compensation, if any), and what, for the sake of peace, they may yield.

You are not to learn from me, the different views which our Citizens entertain of the War we are engaged in with the Indians, and how much these different opinions add to the delicacy and embarrassments alluded to above; nor the criticisms

which, more than probable, will be made on the subject, if the proposed Treaty should be unsuccessful.

Induced by these motives, and desirous that time may be allowed for a full and deliberate consideration of the subject before the departure of the Commissioners, it is my desire that you will, on the 25th of this month, meet together at the War Office (or at such other time and place as you may agree upon) where the principal documents are, with whatever papers you may respectively be possessed of on the subject, and such others as I shall cause to be laid before you, and then and there decide on all the points which you shall conceive necessary for the information and instruction of the Commissioners. And having drawn them into form, to revise the same and have them ready, in a finished state, for my perusal and consideration when I return; together with a digest of such references as shall be adjudged necessary for the Commissioners to take with them.

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And, as it has been suggested to me, that the Society of Quakers are desirous of sending a deputation from their Body, to be present at the aforesaid Treaty (which, if done with pure motives, and a disposition accordant with

the sentiments entertained by Government respecting boundary, may be a mean of facilitating the good work of peace) you will consider how far, if they are approved Characters, they ought to be recognized in the Instructions to the Commissioners; and how proper it may be for them to participate therein or be made acquainted therewith.⁸⁵

85. In the writing of Tobias Lear in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

According to the *Journal of the Proceedings of the President*, Mar. 12, 1793, the President had already informed Knox “that it would be well at all events to have the sd. [John] Hackewelder to attend on Acct. of his knowledge of the language and Customs of the Indians, altho he declines acting as an Interpreter.”

***TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE**

Mount Vernon, April 5, 1793.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 1st. instant came to my hands yesterday. I regret the indisposition of General Knox; but hope, as there is yet time

for consideration of those matters I referred to the heads of the departments, no inconvenience will result from the delay occasioned thereby unless it shd. continue much longer. At George Town I met Mr. Randolph; and by a letter just recd. from Mr. Lear, I am informed that General Lincoln was expected to be in Philadelphia about the middle of this Week.

I am so much surprized, and mortified at the Conduct of Judge Turner, that if he should be in Philadelphia at the receipt of this letter, and not the best evidence of his proceeding

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to the No Western Territory immediately It is my desire that you will, in my name express to him, as far as my powers will authorise you to do, that I can no longer submit to such abuses of public trust without instituting (if I have powers to set it on foot) an enquiry into his conduct. The same with respect to the Governor of that territory. Such remissness in these Gentlemen not only reflects upon the common rules of propriety but must implicate me in the shamefulfulness of their conduct, in suffering it.

I *hope* the acct. brought by the Captn. from Lisbon had no better foundation than that suggested in your letter; for I shd. be sorry to receive a confirmation of it.

It was prudent, however, to guard against an event which might have proved unfortunate in case of the Capture of the Packet.

With esteem I am etc.⁹⁵

95. From a photostat of the draft in the Department of State. The letter sent, in the writing of Bartholomew Dandridge, is in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress. It varies from the draft above in spelling, capitalization, and punctuation only.

To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Mount Vernon, April 12, 1793.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 7 instant was brought to me by the last post. War having actually commenced between France and Great Britain, it behoves the Government of this Country to use every means in its power to prevent the citizens thereof from embroiling us with either of those powers, by endeavouring to maintain a strict neutrality. I therefore require that you will give the subject mature consideration, that such measures as shall be deemed most likely to effect this desirable purpose

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may be adopted without delay; for I have understood that vessels are already designated privateers, and are preparing accordingly.

Such other measures as may be necessary for us to pursue against events which it may not be in our power to avoid or controul, you will also think of, and lay them before me at my arrival in Philadelphia, for which place I shall set out Tomorrow; but will leave it to the advices which I may receive tonight by the post, to determine whether it is to be by the most direct rout, or by the one I proposed to have come, that is, by Reading, the canals between the rivers of Pennsylvania, Harrisburgh, Carlisle, &ca. With very great &c.9

9. In the writing of Bartholomew Dandridge in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

***To THE HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS, AND THE ATTORNEY GENERAL**

(Circular)

Philadelphia, April 18, 1793.

Sir: The posture of affairs in Europe, particularly between France and Great Britain, places the United States in a delicate situation; and requires much consideration of the measures which will be proper for them to observe in the War betwn. those Powers. With a view

to forming a general plan of conduct for the Executive, I have stated and enclosed sundry questions to be considered preparatory to a meeting at my house tomorrow; where I shall expect to see you at 9 o'clock, and to receive the result of your reflections thereon.¹⁵

15. From the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress, a press copy of which is in the *Washington Papers*.

***To THE SECRETARY OF STATE**

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Philadelphia, June 1, 1793.

Sir: To call upon Mr. Hammond without further delay for the result of the reference to his Court concerning the surrender of the Western Posts, or to await the decision of the trial at Richmond on the subject of British debts before it be done, is a question on which my mind has been divided for sometime.

If your own judgment is not *clear* in favor of one, or the other, it is my desire, as the heads of the Departments are *now* together, that you would take their opinion thereupon, and act accordingly.⁴⁷

***To THE SECRETARIES OF STATE, TREASURY, AND WAR**

June 12, 1793.

Gentlemen: As you are about to meet on other business, it is my desire that you would take the enclosed application into consideration. It is not my wish, on one hand, to throw unnecessary obstacles in the way of gratifying the wishes of the applicants. On the other, it is incumbent on me to proceed with regularity. Would not the granting a Patent then, which I believe is always the concluding Act, and predicated upon the Survey (as a necessary document) have too much the appearance of placing the Cart before the horse? And does not the Law enjoin something on the Attorney General of the U. States previous to the Signature of the President? What can be done with

47. From the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

On June 1 Lear entered the following in the *Journal of the Proceedings of the President*: "He [the Secretary of State] also informed me that the Secty of War, the Arty Genl. and himself had met this day at his office on the subjects mentioned yesterday; but had come to no determination thereon as the Secretary of the Treasury was not present; that he should send the papers &c. for his (the Secy) perusal and opinion. I suggested to the

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Secretary of State that it wd. be proper for the communications from M. Genet respecting the debt, to be referred by me to the Secy. of the Treasury to report thereon; in order that the report might be given in answer to Mr. Genet and the proceedings in the business be regular.”

In a letter from Martha Washington to Frances Bassett Washington (June 2) the President wrote the following: “The President says you are already acquainted with his sentiments on the propriety of renting out your land and negroes in Berkeley, As it seems to be the intention to settle another plantation there, he thinks that the negroes, with such as you may incline to move up from Fairfax, had better be divided between the two places and each rented to some man of character and responsibility, who will be able to give security for the performance of the agreement. This will ease you of much trouble and reduce your income to a certainty, which never will be the case under Overseers at a distance, as you seem to experience already. He thinks articles should be drawn up by some professional and skilful person: and every precaution taken to prevent waste of the timber, or the cutting down too much thereof and no abuse of either the Land or negroes be permitted. As to the term for which you would let the Estate, it must depend upon your own view of the subject, the Will and the advice of your friends there, who are much better acquainted with the circumstances attending the Estate, and the utility of a long or shorter term, than he is at this distance.” This insertion is entered in the “Letter Book” in the *Washington Papers*.

propriety I am willing to do. More I ought not to do.⁶⁹

***To THE SECRETARY OF STATE**

Philadelphia, June 16, 1793.

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Dear Sir: I should be glad if you would give the enclosed a perusal, and let me know if you think the reasons there given are sufficient to authorise the additional Loan of 3,000,000 of florins applied for by the Secretary of the Treasury in a letter which you have seen.

The answers contained in the Report, shew the points on which I required information from him. In addition to the motives assigned in the Report for borrowing the additional Sum, there are others (if the act of doing it is warranted by law) very cogent in my mind as inducements to the measure, namely, the uncertain result of the Indian Treaty, the invasion of our Southern frontiers, and the peculiarly delicate situation in which we are placed with respect to some of the European Powers, who in spite of all we can do may involve us in a dispute with one or other of them. In wch. case it might be too late for us to effect a loan.

69. From a photostat of the original through the kindness of Dr. A. S. W. Rosenbach, of New York City.

If the propriety of borrowing on the plan, and for the purposes mentioned in the Report is clear in your mind the Report may be returned by the bearer; If not any time before nine tomorrow may do. Yours always.⁷³

To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Philadelphia, June 20, 1793.

Six: I leave it to you and the Heads of the other two Departments to say what or whether any answer should be given to the British Minister's letter of the 19th. It would seem as if neither he, nor the Spanish Commissioners were to be satisfied with any thing this Government can do; but, on the contrary, are resolved to drive matters to extremity.⁸⁰
Yours &c.⁷⁹

73. From the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

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79. According to the *Journal of the Proceedings of the President* (June 20, 1793), the British Minister required “a more definitive answer than had been given him to the enquiry, whether the privateers would be allowed to return to the ports of the U States, and send their prizes into them.”

To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Mount Vernon, June 30, 1793.

Dear sir: The enclosed Letter from the Governor of New York, covering a communication to him from the Consul of the French Republic at that place, respecting the continuance of a British letter of Marque in the Harbour of New York, reached my hands by the post of last evening; and I now transmit it to you, that it may be taken into consideration by yourself and the other heads of the Departmts. as soon as may be after this letter gets to your hands. If you should be unanimous in your opinions, as to the measures which ought to be pursued by the Government, in the case now communicated, you, or the Secretary at War (to whose Department it belongs) will transmit in my name the result of your deliberations on the subject to the Govr. of New York for his information;

and to be communicated by him to the French Consul at that place.

But, in case there should be a difference of sentiment among the Gentlemen on the matter, I must request that the several opinions may be sent to me for my consideration, and the Governor of Nw. York informed, that a decision will be had in the case as soon as I return to the Seat of Government; which I expect will be about the 10th of next month, notwithstanding the death of my manager⁸⁷ and the consequent derangement of my concerns would make my presence here for a longer time, at this important season, almost indispensable. but I know the urgency and delicacy of our public affairs at present will not permit me to be longer absent; I must therefore submit with the best grace I can to the loss and inconvenience, which my private affairs will sustain from the want of my personal

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attention, or that of a confidential character, the obtaining of whom I have no prospect at present. I am &c.⁸⁸

87. Anthony Whiting.

88. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Mount Vernon, July 4, 1793.

Dear Sir: I send for the information and consideration of the heads of the Departments, a letter which I recd. by the post of yesterday, from the Governor of No. Carolina, stating the measures which he had taken relative to a privateer which had been fitted out from South Carolina under a french Commission, and which had arrived, with a prize, in the Port of Wilmington in North Carolina.

I intend setting out for Philadelphia on Sunday next;² but do not expect to reach that place till Thursday, as I shall be detained in George town, the remainder of the day on which I leave this. With very great regard, I am etc.³

2. On July 7 Washington left Mount Vernon on his return to Philadelphia.

3. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

***To THE SECRETARY OF STATE**

Philadelphia, July 11, 1793.

Sir: After I had read the Papers put into my hands by you, requiring "instant attention," and before a messenger could reach your Office, you had left town.

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What is to be done in the case of the *Little Sarah*, now at Chester? Is the Minister of the French Republic⁵ to set the Acts of this Government at defiance, *with impunity* ? and then threaten the Executive with an appeal to the People. What must the World think of such conduct, and of the Governmt. of the U. States in submitting to it?

These are serious questions. Circumstances press for decision, and as you have had time to consider them (upon me they come unexpected) I wish to know your opinion upon them, even before tomorrow, for the Vessel may then be gone.⁶

5. Genet.

6. From the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress. Endorsed by Jefferson: "recd. July 11. 93."

Washington reached Philadelphia, from Mount Vernon, the morning of July 11. A Cabinet meeting (Jefferson, Hamilton, and Knox) had been held in the State House, Philadelphia, July 8, to consider an answer to the Governor of Pennsylvania's question as to what steps he should pursue in the matter of the *Little Sarah*, then being armed and fitted out at Philadelphia. Hamilton and Knox were of opinion that immediate measures should be taken for erecting a battery on Mud Island "under cover of a party of militia, with direction that if the brig *Sarah* should attempt to depart before the pleasure of the President shall be known concerning her, military coercion be employed to arrest and prevent her progress. The Secretary of state dissents from this opinion." This proceeding, in the writing of Jefferson, and signed by all three Secretaries, is in the *Washington Papers*.

A Cabinet meeting was called for July 12 at 9 a. m., at which it was decided that letters be written to the Ministers of France and Great Britain, informing them that the matters in controversy were to be referred "to persons learned in the laws," and that in the meantime "it is expected...the *Little Sarah* or *Little Democrat* the ship *Jane* and the ship *William* in the Delaware, the *Citoyen Genet* and her prizes the brigs *Lovely Lass* and *Prince William*

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Henry, and the brig *Fanny* in the Chesapeake do not depart till the further order of the President. That letters be addressed to the Judges of the Supreme court of the U. S. requesting their attendance at this place on Thursday the 18th. instant to give their advice on certain matters of public concern which will be referred to them by the President." This minute of the proceedings, in the writing of Jefferson, and signed by Jefferson, Hamilton, and Knox, is in the *Washington Papers*. It is also noted in Jefferson's *Anas*, July 10, 1793, printed in Ford's *Works of Thomas Jefferson* (Federal edition), vol. 1, p. 282, *et seq.*

***TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE**

Philadelphia, July 25, 1793.

Sir: A letter from Colo. S. Smith (of Baltimore) to the Secretary of the Treasury, giving information of the conduct of the Privateers, Citizen Genet and Sans Culottes, is sent for your perusal: after which it may be returned; because contained therein, is a matter which respects the Treasury Department solely.

As the letter of the Minister from the Republic of France, dated the 22d. of June, lyes yet to be answered; and as the Official conduct of that Gentleman, relatively to the Affairs of this Government, will have to undergo a very serious consideration (so soon as the Special Court at which the Attorney General is now engaged will allow him to attend with convenience) in order to decide upon measures proper to be taken thereupon: It is my desire that all the letters to, and from

that Minister may be ready to be laid before me, the heads of Departments and the Attorney General, with whom I shall advise with on the occasion, together with the minutes of such Official Oral communications as you may have held with him on the subjects of those letters &ca. And as the Memorials from the British Minister, and answers thereto, are materially connected therewith, it will be proper, I conceive, to have these ready also.³⁷

TO THE HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS AND THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

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Philadelphia, July 29, 1793.

Gentlemen: It will not be amiss, I conceive, at the meeting you are about to have to-day, to consider the expediency of directing the Customs-house Officers to be attentive to the arming or equipping Vessels, either for offensive or defensive war, in the several ports to which they belong; and make report thereof to the Governor or some other proper Officer.

Unless this, or some other *effectual* mode is adopted to check this evil in the first stage of its growth, the Executive of the U States will be incessantly harassed with complaints on this head, and probably when it may be difficult to afford a remedy.⁴³

37. From the *Jefferson Papers*; also noted in Jefferson's "Note given to the Presidt." (July 26) in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

43. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Philadelphia, July 31, 1793.

Dear Sir: As there are several matters, whh. must remain in a suspended state, perhaps not very conveniently, until a decision is had on the conduct of the Minister of the French Republic; and as the Attorney General will, more than probably, be engaged at the Supreme Court next week: It is my wish, under these circumstances, to enter upon the consideration of the Letters of that Minister tomorrow at Nine o'Clock; I therefore desire you will be here at that hour and bring with you all his letters, your answers, and such other papers as are connected therewith.

As the consideration of this business may require some time, I should be glad if you and the other gentlemen would take a *family* dinner with me at four o'Clock. No other company is, or will be invited. I am &c.⁴⁴

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44. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

***To THE HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS AND THE ATTORNEY GENERAL**

Philadelphia, August 3, 1793.

Gentlemen: Fresh occurrences, but communicated through private channels, make it indispensable that the general principles which have already been the subject of discussion, should be fixed and made known for the government of all concerned, as soon as it can be, with propriety.

To fix rules on substantial and impartial ground, conformably to treaties, and the Laws of Nations, is extremely desirable.⁴⁶

The Verdict of the late Jury, in the case of Henfield,⁴⁷ and the decision of yesterday respecting the French Minister, added to the situation of Indian affairs, and the *general* complexion of public matters, induce me to ask your advice whether it be proper, or not, to convene the Legislature at an earlier day than that on which it is to meet, by Law?⁴⁸ And if it be thought advisable, at what time?⁴⁹

***To THE SECRETARY OF STATE**

Philadelphia, August 4, 1793.

Sir: If the heads of Departments and the Attorney General, who have prepared the

46. These rules as agreed upon were signed by Jefferson, Hamilton, Knox, and Randolph, August 3, and forwarded to the President that same day. They are in the *Washington Papers*.

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47. Gideon Henfield, stated to be an officer in the service of the French Republic, had been arrested on the privateer *Citizen Genet*, and imprisoned. Genet had claimed the intervention of the President for his release.

48. Separate opinions from Hamilton, Jefferson, Knox, and Randolph, on the question of convening Congress, were submitted to the President. Jefferson was the only Cabinet officer who approved convening Congress. All the opinions are in the *Washington Papers*. Randolph's reveals that "At a past day this question was agitated; and it was the unanimous opinion, that congress should not *then* be called. A revival of that opinion confirms me in its propriety."

49. From the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

eight rules which you handed to me yesterday, are well satisfied that they are not repugnant to treaties, or to the Laws of Nations; and moreover are the best we can adopt to maintain Neutrality; I not only give them my approbation, but desire they may be made known without delay for the information of all concerned.

The same expression will do for the other paper, which has been subscribed as above, and submitted to my consideration, for restoring or making restitution of Prizes under the circumstances therein mentioned.⁵²

It is proper you should be informed, that the Minister of France intends to leave this City for New York tomorrow; and not amiss, perhaps, to know, that, in mentioning the seasonable aids of hands, which the Ambuscade received from the French Indiaman, the day preceding her meeting the Boston, he added, that Seamen would no longer be wanting, as he had *now* 1500 at his command. This being the case (although the allusion was to the Subject he was then speaking upon,) some of these Men may be employed in the equipment of other Privateers, other than those *now* in existence; as the right of fitting out such, *in our Ports* is asserted in unequivocal terms.

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52. This paper is in the *Washington Papers* under date of Aug. 5, 1793.

Was the propriety of convening the Legislature at an earlier day than that on which it is to assemble by Law, considered yesterday?

The late decree of the National Convention of France, dated the 9th. of May, authorising their Ships of War and Armed Vessels to stop any Neutral Vessels loaded in whole, or in part with Provisions, and send them into their Ports, adds another motive for the adoption of this measure.⁵³

53. From the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

***TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE**

Philadelphia, August 12, 1793.

Dear Sir: I clearly understood you on Saturday. And, of what I conceive to be two evils, must prefer the least, that is, to dispense with your temporary absence in, Autumn (in order to retain you in Office 'till January) rather than part with you altogether at the close of September.⁶²

It would be an ardent wish of mine, that your continuance in Office (even at the expence of some sacrifice of inclination) could have been through the whole of the ensuing Session of Congress, for many, very many weighty reasons which present themselves to my mind: one of which, and not the least is, that in my judgment, the Affairs of this Country as they relate to sovereign Powers, Indian disturbances, and internal policy, will have taken a more decisive, and I hope agreeable form, than they now bear before that time. When perhaps, other public Servants might also indulge in retirement. If this cannot be, my next wish is, that your absence from the Seat of Government in autumn, may be as short as you conveniently can make it. With much truth and regard, I am, etc.⁶³

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62. Jefferson had resigned as Secretary of State in a letter to Washington, dated July 31, 1793, the press copy of which is in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

63. From the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Philadelphia, August 15, 1793.

“almost dark”

Sir: The Captain of Marines on Board the Ambuscade has just put the enclosed into my hands. He was sent he says on purpose to do it: and waits only for an answer. Give it I pray you such an one as it ought to receive. Yours.⁶⁷

67. From the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress. Jefferson has entered thereon “this was Genet's lre of Aug. 13. addressd to the Presidt.” A press copy of a copy in French of Genet's letter of August 13 to President Washington is in the *Jefferson Papers*, as is also a press copy of Jefferson's answer thereto, dated August 16.

To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Philadelphia, August 19, 1793.

Sir: I send, for the consideration and opinion of the Heads of Departments and the Attorney General of the U. S. a communication from the Governor of Pennsylvania respecting the Privateer Citizen Genet, together with copies of two letters from the French Consul to the Governor on the same subject, and a Report of two persons who had examined the Aforesaid Privateer by the Governor's order.

The Gentlemen will decide whether the circumstances reported respecting the unfitness of the said Privateer to proceed to sea, are such as would make it proper to depart from the

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rules already adopted, and allow a longer time for her to prepare to depart than is granted by the Governor, or whether the orders given by him on this head shall be executed.

It will be seen that the Subject requires despatch, and the Secretary of War will inform the Governor of the result of your deliberations on this subject as soon as it is given.⁷³

73. In the writing of Tobias Lear in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Philadelphia, September 7, 1793.

Sir: I have received your letter of yesterday's date,¹⁸ and approving the measures suggested therein, desire you will make arrangements for carrying them into effect with as little loss of time as may be.¹⁹

18. Jefferson's letter is entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*. It is written in the third person and concerns his answer to Hammond's letter of August 30 regarding certain special cases of vessels and the establishment of a general rule of restitution or compensation. Jefferson wished the Cabinet to approve the draft of his answer to Hammond.

19. From the "Letter Book" copy in the *Washington Papers*.

***To THE SECRETARY OF STATE**

Chester, September 10, 1793.

Dear Sir: I return from this place, the Papers which you put into my hands on the Road, to day.²⁹ The unpromising state of the Negotiation at Madrid, and the opinion of the Commissioners that their Commission should be withdrawn, and matters at that Court placed in Statu quo, deserve very serious consideration. I pray you to give it; and if it rests

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altogether with the Executive (after the Agency the Senate has had in the business) let me know the result.

Mr. Carmichael must not be the person left there; for, from him we should never hear a tittle of what is going forward at the Court of Madrid. I am &c.30

***To THE SECRETARY OF STATE**

Elkton, September 11, 1793.

Sir: I will thank you to have made out and forwarded to me a Commission for the Collector of Annapolis, in place of Davidson³⁴ leaving the name of the person blank to be filled up by me, you will please to have the U: States Seal affixed thereto, and countersigned by you, so that it may be sent directly from me

29. On the morning of September to Washington left Philadelphia for Mount Vernon, where he arrived September 14.

30. From the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

34. John Davidson. He had been appointed inspector of the port of Annapolis.

to the person who shall be appointed.³⁵ With much esteem etc.³⁶

35. John Randall was appointed and confirmed collector, December 30.

36. From the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

***To THE SECRETARY OF STATE**

Mount Vernon, October 7, 1793.

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Dear Sir: it appearing to me that the public business will require the Executive Officers to be together sometime before the meeting of Congress, I have written to the Secretaries of the Treasury and War to meet me at Philadelphia or vicinity, say Germantown, by the first of November, and shd. be glad to see you there at the sametime. The Attorney General is advised of this also.

In a letter from General Knox of the 24th Ult. who was then at Elizabeth Town performing quarantine before he could be admitted into New York is the following paragraph.

The french fleet is still in New York, in a wretched State of disorganization, which prevents its Sailing. Mr. G—t has been low spirited for ten days past. The fleet have been told by him that the Executive of the United States prevents their selling their prizes, and Citizen Bompard, who belongs to a Club in France as well as all his Sailors, say that they shall represent the matter upon their return in its proper colours. I do not find Mr. G—t has promulgated the last letter of the Secretary of State, excepting as to the effect of the measures with the Consuls, which prevent their selling their prizes; Would to God it had been thought proper to publish the letter to Mr. Morris. The minds of our own people would have been convinced of the propriety of measures which have

been adopted, and all cavil at the meeting of Congress prevented.

I should be of this opinion likewise if there is danger of the public mind receiving unfavourable impressions from the want of information on one hand, whilst the insidious attempts to poison it are so impudently and unweariedly practised on the other.

In another letter from Genl Knox dated the first instant at the same place after having lain [*sic*] quarantine from the 19th. of September to that date, he says

The french fleet, excepting the Ambuscade will sail to morrow from New York upon some Cruise unknown. The Surveillant sailed on the 29th. Ult for France with despatches from

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Mr. G—t and such is his desire that they should arrive safely, that he will in a day or two despatch the Ceres, an armed Brig with duplicates.

If our dispatch boat should fail, and duplicates are not sent, he will play the whole game himself.⁶⁷ General Knox expects to be back by the 25th. of this Month.

We are sustaining at this moment, a drought, which if of much longer continuance, will, I fear, prove fatal to the Wheat now in the ground, much of which has come up badly, and is diminishing every day for want of Rain. I am etc.

P. S. The enclosed from Mr. Leslie⁶⁸ you will best know what to do with, and say to him.⁶⁹

67. At this point Ford prints the following note from Genet to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, September 19: "At this time Genet was sending a remarkable despatch to his government, representing that his ends would be attained in the next Congress in spite of General Washington, who sacrificed the rights of France. 'This friend of Lafayette, who affects to adorn his parlor with medallions of Capet and his family; who has received letters from the pretended regent, which were brought to him by Noailles and Talon; and who continues to see these villians, calls me anarchist, Jacobin, and threatens to have me recalled because I have not delivered myself to the federalist party, who wish to do nothing for us, and whose only aim is to establish here a monarchy'."

68. Robert(?) Leslie, a London watchmaker.

69. From the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress. Ford dates this October 6.

To THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Mount Vernon, October 11, 1793.

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Dear Sir: Your despatch of the 3d. with its several enclosures, reached Alexandria on Wednesday evening, and got to my hands yesterday morning. This afternoon I shall send to the post office the Letters from Mr. Bankson,⁷⁵ with my signature to the Exequatur for Mr. Dannery,⁷⁶ and Letters patent revoking that of Mr. Duplane.⁷⁷ Your letter to the latter, two to the French Minister, one to his secretary Mons. Bournonville, and another to Mr. Morris⁷⁸ being approved, are also forwarded.

To a Letter written to you a few days ago, I refer for the time and place mentioned for the meeting of the Heads of Departments, and hope it will be convenient for you to attend. If I do not take a circuitous route by Frederick-town in Maryland &c., I shall not leave this before the 28th, and in that case should be glad of your company, if it is not inconvenient for you to call. Since writing that letter, however, I have received the enclosed from the Attorney General which may make a change of *place* necessary; but I shall wait further advices before this is resolved on.

I have also received a letter from the late Speaker, Trumbull;⁷⁹ and as I understand, sentiments similar to his are entertained by others: query, what had I best do? You were of opinion when here, that neither the Constitution nor Laws gave power to the President to convene Congress at any other place than where the Seat of Government is fixed by their own act. Twelve days since I wrote to the Attorney General

75. Benjamin Bankson. He was chief clerk of the Department of State.

76. Appointed French consul at Boston by the French Executive Council.

77. Duplaine, who was vice-consul, was recalled.

78. Gouverneur Morris.

79. Jonathan Trumbull. His letter of October 2 is in the *Washington Papers*. He wrote that, in his opinion, the discretionary powers of the President warranted the calling of Congress

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to convene at some other place than Philadelphia in special session, otherwise “a majority of both Houses *must* Convene in Phila, be the Danger what it may, before an Adjournment can be made to a place of Safety and Convenience.”

for an official opinion on this head, but have received no answer.⁸⁰ If the importance and urgency of the case, arising from a supposition that the fever in Philadelphia should not abate, would justify calling the Legislature at any other place, where ought it to be? This, if German town is affected with the malady, involves the Executive in a serious and delicate decision. Wilmington and Trenton are equidistant in opposite directions from Phila., both on the great thoroughfare, equally dangerous on account of the infection being communicated to them, and would, I presume, be equally obnoxious to one or other set of members, according to their situations. Annapolis has conveniences, but it might be thought I had interested and local views in naming this place. What sort of a town then is Reading, and how would it answer? Neither Northern nor Southern members would have cause to complain of its situation. Lancaster would favor the Southern ones most.

You will readily perceive, if any change takes place, not a moment is to be lost in the notification; whether by a simple statement of facts (among which, I presume, the House intended for them in Philada. will be unfit for their reception), and an intimation that you shall be at a certain place ⁸¹ days before the first of December to meet them in their legislative capacity, or to advise with them on measures proper to be taken in the present exigency. If something of this sort should strike you favorably, draw (and if necessary sign) a proper Instrument to avoid delay, leaving

80. Randolph answered October 24. His letter is in the *Washington Papers*.

81. Left blank in the original.

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the place blank, but giving your opinion thereon. Germantown would certainly have been the best place for them to have met in the first instance, there to take ulterior resolutions without involving the Executive.

I have no objection to the Director of the Mint, with your concurrence, choosing an Engraver in place of Mr. Wright. No report has been made to me relative to the Tonnage of the French Ships from St Domingo.

Major Lenox,⁸² I perceive by the papers, is marshal of the District of Pennsylvania. Limits of Jurisdiction and protection must lie over till we meet, when I request you will remind me of it. I am etc.⁸³

82. David Lenox.

83. In the writing of Bartholomew Dandridge from the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

This letter was inclosed by Washington, in a brief note, October 11, to Edward Carrington, asking its speedy conveyance to Jefferson. This note is entered in the "Letter Book" in the *Washington Papers*.

***To THE SECRETARY OF STATE**

November 22, 1793.

Dear Sir: I think Colo. Humphreys in one of his letters to you, refers to his to me, for some article of News. I see nothing therein that we have not had before; but send it nevertheless, for your perusal.

Can any thing be said, or done, respecting the Marquis de la Fayette? I send the letter that you may give it another perusal. I send a letter also from a French Gentleman in New York, offering his Services as Engineer &ca. We may want such characters ! A civil answer

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therefore may not be amiss to give him, although he cannot be employed *now* , nor never indeed²⁷ he is well qualified. Are resignations deposited in the Office of State? If they are I send one just received. Yours always.²⁸

27. An inadvertence. The draft, in the possession of Dr. A. S. W. Rosenbach, has the word "unless."

28. From the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

***To THE SECRETARY OF STATE**

Philadelphia, December 1, 1793.

Dear Sir: Is there no clue to Mr. Morris's meaning respecting Monsr. Merlino?³⁴ The next paragraph of his letter is enigmatical to me, from the want of my recollecting perfectly the subjects alluded to. What are the orders given him which he will implicitly obey, and which were, according to his acct. received so very opportunely?³⁵ Has not a letter of his subsequent date to that laid before me yesterday, acknowledged the receipt of the Plans of the Federal City.

There can be no doubt, since the information which has come to hand from our Ministers at Paris and London of the propriety of changing the expression of the Message³⁶ as it respects the Acts of France. And if any bad consequences (which I still declare I see no cause to apprehend) are likely to flow from a *public* communication of matters relative to G. Britain it might be well to revise [*sic*] the thing again in your *own* mind, before it is sent in; especially as the Secretary of the Treasury has, more than

34. The "Letter Book" spells this name "Meilino," as well as "Merlino."

35. Probably refers to Jefferson's letter to Morris, Apr. 20, 1793, a press copy of which is in the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.

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36. To Congress.

once declared, and has offered to discuss and prove that we receive more substantial benefits (favours are beside the question with any of them, because they are not intended as such,) from British regulations with respect to the Commerce of this Country than we do from those of France; antecedent I mean, to those of very recent date. We should be very cautious *if this be the case* not to advance any thing that may recoil; or take ground we cannot maintain well. Yours always.³⁷

37. From the *Jefferson Papers* in the Library of Congress.